PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIRST CONVENTION OF THE KANSAS SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,

Convened at Topeka, from Nov. 5th to 7th.

FIRST SESSION.

November 5, 1868.

Pursuant to a public call in the Lutheran Observer, for a convention of the Lutheran Pastors and lay delegates favorable to the formation of a Synod in the States of Kansas and Missouri, the following brethren met in the Lutheran church in Topeka, Kansas (Rev. A. J. Hesson's charge).

The members present were:

CLERICAL — *Ordained* — Reverends John G. Ellinger, J. B. McAfee, S. P. Harrington, A. W. Wagenhals, A. J. Hesson, E. J. Keplinger. *Licentiate*—Rev. M. G. Boyer.

LAY DELEGATES.—Messrs. A. P. Benson, J. G. Schnucker, G. W. Householder, John H. Stover, G. W. Crotzer.

In the evening an appropriate sermon was preached by Rev. S. P. Harrington, from Matthew xxvii: 19. After the service Rev. J. B. McAfee was elected temporary chairman, and Rev. E. J. Keplinger temporary secretary.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed on credentials. Committee—Revs. J. G. Ellinger and M. G. Boyer, and Mr. G. W. Crotzer.

A committee of three was appointed on permanent organization. Committee—Revs. A. J. Hesson and E. J. Keplinger, and Mr. A. P. Benson.

The committee on credentials reported Revs. J. G. Ellinger, S. P. Harrington, J. B. McAfee, A. W. Wagenhals, E. J. Keplinger,

M. G. Boyer (licentiate), and Messrs. G. W. Crotzer, A. P. Benson, J. G. Schmucker, John H. Stover and G. W. Householder, entitled to seats in the convention.

The committee on permanent organization reported Rev. S. P. Harrington as candidate for president and Rev. E. J. Keplinger for secretary. The report was adopted.

The following preamble and resolution was then offered:

WHEREAS, The time has come when the wants of the Lutheran Church in the States of Kansas and Missouri demand that there should be some efficient agency within these States, which shall more successfully look after and promote the varied interests of our Western Zion; therefore,

Resolved, That we, as a convention, proceed to organize a new Synod, and that a committee of three clerical and two lay members be appointed to draft and report a constitution for said Synod.

Which was adopted. Committee—Revs. A. W. Wagenhals, A. J. Hesson, John G. Ellinger, and Messrs. J. G. Schmucker and G. W. Crotzer.

Convention adjourned, with prayer by Rev. J. G. Ellinger.

SECOND SESSION.

NOVEMBER 6TH, 9 o'clock A. M.

Synod met, and after a season of devotional exercises, for the outpouring and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the business was resumed.

The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

On motion of Rev. A. W. Wagenhals it was,

Resolved, That this Synod declares its doctrinal position to be that of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America, receiving and holding with the Evangelical Church of Our Fathers the Word of God as contained in the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and the Augsburg confession as a correct exhibition of the fundamental doctrines of the Divine Word, and of the faith of the Church, founded on that Word, and on this basis desires a constitution to be formed.

Which was unanimously adopted.

The committee on drafting a constitution reported the following:

The committee on constitution feeling the great difficulty of its work, and desiring that every thing be done deliberately, and since it is impossible to draft a constitution in so short a time, would respectfully report the entire constitution of the East Pennsylvania Synod, substituting the word "Kansas" in place of

"East Pennsylvania;" also recommonding that a committee of three be appointed to draft a constitution, and report at the next meeting of the Synod.

Signed by

REV. A. W. WAGENHALS,
REV. A. J. HESSON,
REV. JNO. G. ELLINGER,
MR. J. G. SCHMUCKER,
MR. G. W. CROTZER.

After the reading of the constitution of the East Pennsylvania Synod, the report of the committee was adopted.

The election of officers was then held, as follows:

President—Rev. S. P. Harrington.

Secretary—Rev. E. J. Keplinger.

Treasurer—Rev. A. W. Wagenhals.

Synod adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Rev. Hesson.

THIRD SESSION.

2 o'clock P. M.

Synod met and was opened with prayer by Rev. E. J. Keplinger.

The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

The president announced the usual committees.

Committee No. 2 reported: That the paper placed in its hands was a letter from Rev. A. Reck, of Lancaster, Ohio. The letter from Father Reck is one of congratulation and encouragement to this new Synod. The committee recommend that the letter be read to the Synod, and that the president write a fraternal reply to Father Reck.

REV. A. W. WAGENHALS,
REV. J. G. ELLINGER,
MR. J. G. SCHMUCKER.

The report was adopted.

Committee No. 5 reported: On a paper submitted to the president by Rev. A. W. Wagenhals, who had understood that Rev. D. Earhart is not present with us because he was not invited to attend, and suggested that a committee take action on the same and make due explanation, and send him a fraternal letter stating that the report of committee No. 5, to whom this document was given, is, that no invitation was given to any one, except that given in the published notice in the Lutheran Observer, and that we very much regret the absence of Rev. D. Earhart, that he be informed of the action of this Synod in the adoption of the constitution of the East Pennsylvania Synod; and if he can unite with us, that he notify the president of the Synod, who shall direct the secretary to place his name on the roll.

The second document is a letter from Rev. F. R. Scherer, regretting his inability to be present with us; but fully sympathizing with us in the organization of this Synod. He wishes this body to make provisions for supplying certain destitute points, which

the committee thinks can be fully considered by committee No. 6—on vacant churches.

J. B. McAfee,
A. J. Hesson,
A. P. Benson.

Adopted.

Committe No. 8 reported: That a paper placed in its hands, inquiring into the expediency of appointing a committee to ask an interest in the prayers of the Church East in behalf of our missions and missionaries, we, therefere, as a committee, would recommend the following: That a committee of three clerical members of the Synod be appointed to ask the Church East to unite in prayer to Almighty God, on a certain Sabbath, in behalf of our Western missions and missionaries; and that their request appear in the Lutheran Observer and American Lutheran.

M. G. Boyer,
J. G. Ellinger,
G. W. Crotzer.

Adopted.

Revs. A. J. Hesson, M. G. Boyer, and A. W. Wagenhals were appointed the cemmittee to give such notice.

Committee No. 1 reported: That the paper placed in their hands is a letter from Rev. S. W. Harkey, D. D., of St. Louis. He regrets that he cannot be with us. He expresses himself favorably to the movement, and tenders us his hearty sympathy. Whereupon your committee offer the following:

1st. That we regret that he could not meet with us.

2nd. That we hope that he will be with us at the next convention.

The report was adopted.

Committee No. 4 reported: That the papers placed in its hands were letters from two clerical brethren belonging to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of northern Illinois, in which they earnestly request the co-operation of this body in their educational efforts put forth at Mendota College. The committee recommend that this body express itself as feeling deeply interested in said cause, and heartily sympathize with the brethren who have for a long time belabored most dilligently for the interests of said institution; and deeply regret that our circumstances and condition are such that we cannot render any substantial aid at present.

The report was adopted.

Rev. A. J. Hesson then read a letter from Rev. M. Officer, expressing his sympathy and encouragement.

Synod adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock A. M., next day.

FOURTH SESSION.

November 7th, 9 o'clock A. M.

Synod convened, and after a short season of devotional exercises, business was resumed.

The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

The Rev. Mr. Bodwell, pastor of the 1st Congregational church of Topeka, was admitted an advisory of this Synod.

The report of committee No. 6 was heard and disposed of by the adoption of the following as a substitute for the report:

Resolved, That we, as a Synod, resolve ourselves into a missionary society, and that an executive committee of three be appointed.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the 6th day of December next be observed by all our missions and the churches East as a day of special prayer in behalf of our home missions and missionaries.

Synod adjourned to meet as a ministerium at 2 o'clock P. M., and as a Synod at 3½ o'clock P. M. Prayer by Rev. A. J. Hesson.

FIFTH SESSION.

NOVEMBER 7TH, 3½ o'clock P. M.

Agreeably to the adjournment of the ministerium the Synod resumed its business. Prayer by Rev. M. G. Boyer.

The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

The Rev. Mr. Platt, of the second Congregational church of Topeka, was introduced, and admitted as an advisory member.

The following formula of parochial report was submitted for the consideration of the Synod:

1st. No. of churches.
2nd. No. of other preaching places.
3rd. No. of communicants.
4th. No. of children baptised.
5th. No. admitted to membership; by adult baptism; by letter; by confirmation.
6th. No. of removals of membership; by letter; by death; by excommunication.
7th. No. of Lutheran Sabbath schools; No. of teachers; No. of scholars.
8th. No. of prayer meetings.
9th. Amount contributed to Synodical treasury.
10th. Name of pastor.
11th. Post office address.
12th. Date of report.

On motion, said formula of report was adopted.

Rev. A. J. Hesson presented the following:

Resolved, That the executive committee on home missions be instructed to visit the Monrovia charge under the pastoral care of Rev. S. P. Harrington, and with his consent and co-operation, recommend and propose a division of said charge, so as to form two charges thereof; and if necessary solicit aid from the home mission society to make up the deficiency of the pastor's salary if

inadequate; and also to assist the newly formed charge in procuring the services of a competent pastor.

The resolution was adopted.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the president be instructed to send an invitation to Rev. J. G. Groenmeller, of Atchison county, Mo., to join this Synod.

Which was adopted.

On motion, the first Thursday in April was chosen as the time of the next meeting of this Synod.

Committees on examination of candidates were appointed:

1st. On personal piety, motives of seeking the office of the ministry, and evidences of Christianity. Revs. J. G. Ellinger and E. J. Keplinger.

2nd. On natural and revealed theology, church history, and pastoral theology. Revs. A. W. Wagenhals and M. G. Boyer.

3rd. On hermeneutics and homeletics. Revs. E. J. Keplinger and A. W. Wagenhals.

4th. On church government, Greek and Hebrew Scriptures. Revs. J. B. McAfee and A. J. Hesson.

Executive Mission Committee—Revs. A. J. Hesson, A. W. Wagenhals and M. G. Boyer.

The following was offered by Rev. A. J. Hesson:

Resolved, That every member of this Synod consider himself a committee of one to canvass as much of the unoccupied mission territory as possible; to seek out the scattered Lutherans; look out for important fields, and report interesting facts, which may develop themselves, to the mission committee.

Adopted.

The place of the next Synodical Convention was then, on motion, decided to be Atchison, Kansas.

Synod adjourned to meet after services this evening. Prayer by Rev. Bodwell.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

SATURDAY, Nov. 7th, 2 o'clock P. M.

Ministerium met and was opened by prayer by Rev. Father J. G. Ellinger.

Rev. M. G. Boyer (licentiate) presented his sermon, ministerial license and other papers, to the ministerium for examination, with a view to his ordination. Bro. Boyer having withdrawn, the

ministerium duly considered and examined the documents placed in their hands by him.

It was moved, seconded and carried, that he be ordained by the laying on of hands to the holy office of the Gospel ministry, on Sabbath evening after the services.

The ministerium then adjourned to meet as a Synod at the call of the president. Prayer by Rev. J. B. McAfee.

SIXTH SESSION.

NOVEMBER 7th, 8½ o'clock P. M.

After the evening services the chair appointed the persons to preach on special subjects at the next meeting. And the thanks of the Synod were tendered to the people of Topeka for their kind hospitality shown toward the members of this body during its session.

The first convention of the Synod of Kansas then, on bended knees in prayer to God, led by Rev. Father Ellinger, closed its session to meet at Atchison, on the first Thursday of April, 1869.

S. P. HARRINGTON,
President of Synod.

E. J. KEPLINGER, Secretary.